



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

**REQUEST FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (RCE)
AMENDMENT 1**

PROGRAM/ACTIVITY DATA:

Activity Name: MENA Regional Drought Management System (MENA RDMS), Amendment 1
Country/Region: Middle East Regional (Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia)
Start Date: September 2015 **End Date:** December 31, 2019
Life of Project Amount: \$4,131,272
RCE prepared by: Ellen de Guzman **Date:** 6/6/2019
Amendment: Yes (amends IEE ME-15-61)

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION RECOMMENDED: (Place X where applicable)

Categorical Exclusion: X Negative Determination: _____
 Positive Determination: _____ Deferral: _____

ADDITIONAL ELEMENTS: (Place X where applicable)

CONDITIONS _____ PVO/NGO: _____

Purpose and Scope

The purpose of this document is to amend IEE ME 15-61 to extend the expiration date from June 30, 2019 to December 31, 2019 to allow for the completion of all activities planned under the grant. The life of project amount and all other threshold determinations and conditions remain unchanged.

Description of Activities

The Regional Drought Management System for the Middle East and North Africa focuses on drought risk management through the development of monitoring and early warning systems, and preparedness and mitigation measures. It serves the region by:

- Establishing a regional drought monitoring and early warning system and associated information delivery systems;
- Providing assessment of drought vulnerabilities and impacts; and
- Developing actions and measures to mitigate and respond to drought impacts.

The MENA RDMS supports monitoring of regional drought conditions, assists with drought planning and coordination activities, and assists officials who are charged with relief efforts by providing value-added information during drought events. A critical part of its mission is to provide training and capacity building throughout the region in the operation of monitoring and

early warning systems, developing communications and delivery technology, and conducting stakeholder engagement activities

RECOMMENDED THRESHOLD DECISION

A **Categorical Exclusion** was approved for MENA RDMS on September 1, 2015. Pursuant to 22 CFR 216.2(c)(2)(i), the activities funded under this PIO grant may be categorically excluded from Initial Environmental Examination, Environmental Assessment, and Environmental Impact Assessment requirements, because they will not directly affect the physical or natural environment. Since these conditions remain unchanged, a Categorical Exclusion is also recommended for the RCE Amendment 1.

Climate Risk Management

As per the ADS 201mal and the executive order on "Climate-Resilient International Development," USAID shall factor climate resilience into international development programs and investments. This applies to new projects and activities after October 1, 2016. This activity started before this date, and is therefore exempt from the climate risk management screening requirements.

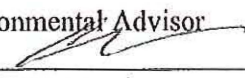
Revisions

Pursuant to 22 CFR 216.3(a)(9), if new information becomes available that indicates that activities to be funded might be "major" and the effect "significant," this categorical exclusion will be reviewed and revised by the originator of the project and submitted to the Bureau Environmental Officer for approval, and, if appropriate, an environmental assessment will be prepared.

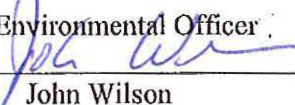
APPROVAL OF RECOMMENDED ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION:

CLEARANCE:

ME/TS, Jim Wright  date: 6/11/19

Regional Environmental Advisor
Clearance  date: 6/17/2019
Anan Masri

APPROVAL:

ME Bureau Environmental Officer
Approval:  date: 6/11/19
John Wilson